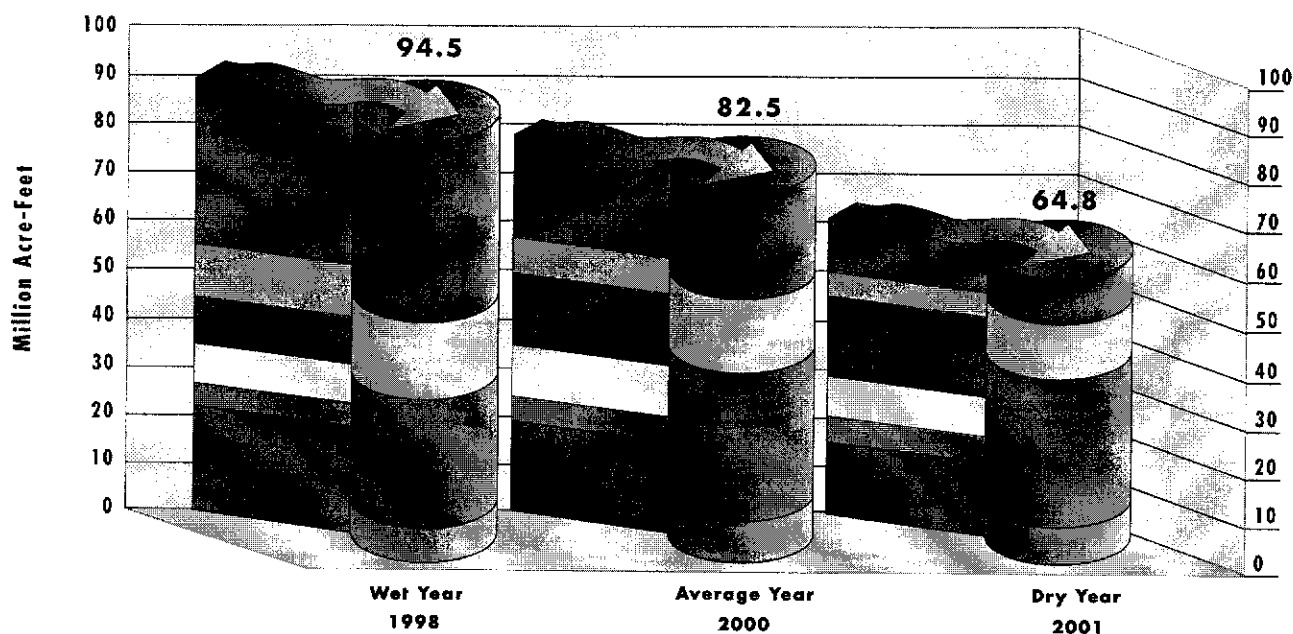


California

California Water Balance



California's water balance can vary significantly from year to year. Three recent years show a marked change in the amount and relative proportion of the following: water delivered to urban and agricultural sectors and water dedicated to the environment (applied water use); where the water came from (water source); and how much water was reused among sectors. Each year, applied water is only a portion of California's total precipitation and inflows. The rest—about 120 million acre-feet in an average year—either evaporates, is used by native vegetation, provides rainfall for agriculture and managed wetlands, or flows out of state or to salt sinks. (See Volume 3 for state and regional waterflow charts.)

